

W 9/81/32 1044

No. *My very dear Ida*

Name, \_\_\_\_\_

Abode, \_\_\_\_\_

Disease, \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Admission, \_\_\_\_\_

*I have been intend*

*ing to write to thee week*

*after week ever since thou*

*went over but I have*

*always so many things on the*

*heap and am so often unable to*

*do what I have to do that the*

*time slips by without getting*

*half accomplished that I wish*

*but now I must write seeing*

*thou hast given such strong*

*proofs of thy "good judgment"*

*by the way in wh. thou hast*

*lately acted - Thou begins by*

*telling me that I know that thou*

*was corresponding with J.C.*

*I did not know or think any*

*thing of the kind - I had a*



suspicion that Alice took &  
brought <sup>thee a little</sup> ~~messengers~~ <sup>near & then</sup> ~~interviews~~  
but I did not suspect thee of cor-  
responding with Tom or any one  
else without first consulting thy  
mother. I am grieved to find  
that thou art not as straight  
forward as I believed thee to be.  
It was I ever harsh with thee or did  
I ever withhold anything <sup>from thee</sup> <sup>quitably</sup> ~~from thee~~  
that I thought <sup>it</sup> would <sup>be</sup> <sup>dear</sup> <sup>to</sup> thy  
comfort or happiness? Why then  
act in a sly way feeding the flame  
of love in Tom by corresponding  
with him before thou hadst talked  
it over with me & had my appro-  
val if he was one I'd approve.  
By thy wrong doing it is likely  
thou mayst have done him an

injury by setting his parents  
unnecessarily against him.  
Remember thou art a Friend  
and thou hast been taught that  
God's directing hand is in all  
things if we look for it so kindly  
thou hast been more patient and looked  
to thy Heavenly Father to lead thee  
in this very momentous matter.  
He w<sup>th</sup> have done so & all w<sup>th</sup> have  
thou sayest that thou art sure ~~thou~~  
been well. <sup>Thou knowest that</sup>  
be satisfied. <sup>Thou art not satisfied</sup>  
as a member of the Society of  
Friends that <sup>thought</sup> expected to marry  
one who holds the same religious  
views as thyself. It is consider-  
ed by the Society to be of the ut-  
most importance that to the  
spiritual well being of their  
members that there should



no diversity on that subject  
How can two walk together  
unless they be agreed? I am  
sure they cannot amicably  
unless they be agreed upon the  
subject of religion. It is so  
mixed up with the daily life  
of a family that any want  
of unity in <sup>the</sup> heads of a family  
must mar the well being of  
that family - Look at home  
and tell me if our family wd  
not be much more united &  
much happier if all were of the  
same mind on that one subject  
And the difference between  
me & my grown up children  
is not as serious to comfort  
as it wd be between a husband  
and wife with <sup>my</sup> family & household require-  
ments -



17/2 Since writing the foregoing  
 I have rec<sup>d</sup> a note from Catharine  
 Name <sup>wh</sup> she speaks very pleasantly  
 of Tom as also does Charles &  
 Abode <sup>of</sup> James Welch also speaks  
 Disposed <sup>of</sup> him - so after <sup>thoughtfully</sup>  
 Date of admission <sup>considering</sup> the <sup>possibility</sup>  
~~engagement to be~~ <sup>that</sup> Henry  
~~the matter was in~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~  
<sup>about</sup> <sup>carefully</sup>  
~~mind~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~request~~ <sup>trust</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>age</sup>  
~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> in the matter that  
 I might do what was right to  
 Tom as well as to thee - I give  
 my consent to the engagement  
 trusting that <sup>Henry</sup> ~~James~~ <sup>however</sup>  
 Father may be with <sup>each of</sup> you both  
 drawing each with the cords  
 of Divine Love to himself  
 so that every day your lives you  
 may be <sup>more</sup> fit for this service on Earth  
 or for a seat at His right hand <sup>above</sup>



Our dear James is down the  
river with George Clarke &  
the same party as last year  
except W.R. Giblin who <sup>is</sup> not  
yet away as the house is still  
sitting they have two young lads  
<sup>also</sup> with them named Boatman &  
Jackson - The former is the  
son of a publican of that the <sup>other</sup>  
I did not understand who he is  
James & I white sides - I <sup>do</sup> not be  
spared for a fortnight - so they  
only went last seventh day -  
The party is understood to be back  
next seventh day - Lizzie is  
also from home - she went up  
to George's in a great hurry  
last week without saying  
why she was going so when  
she was coming back - she has  
seemed well for some little  
while it may be that she <sup>was</sup> ~~has~~  
an that account or it may

be that she wanted to make  
George some shavers that  
Isabel had been fumbling at  
for some time - washing stuff  
but as far as I know she did  
not let any one into the secret -  
Martha Hall & James Cotton  
are still in South Australia  
holding meetings and have been  
well met every where - having  
understand good attendance  
& good meetings - It seems doubt-  
ful whether they will be in time  
for our annual meeting -  
William Giblin has been ill for  
two or three <sup>or</sup> ~~four~~ weeks with Rheumatism  
and some disease in his eyes &  
Dr. Benfield says is of thalamic



If thou wilt be of use to C C when  
she needs a comfort to those  
best stay until C C comes over  
about the house & come with him

But with regard to the person  
 who is seated on the carpet  
 he has perhaps no religious  
 views at all - For all that you have  
 to say in his favour is that he is  
 thoroughly steady and <sup>very thing</sup> so some-  
 sure all that there is with "But  
 there art very much mistaken  
 if there think that steadiness  
 is all I require in the man  
 who asks the hand of one of  
 my daughters - I expect him to  
 be a man of education, of good  
 sound sense & true piety -  
 that he shall have come from  
 a good stock - Not in the world's  
 acceptations of the term but in  
 a Friend's sense of the term -  
 is that given by Cooper in his  
 address to his Mother upon her  
 her picture, where he says "My boy  
 is not that I deduce my birth  
 from kings enthroned, or rulers  
 of the earth;



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but higher far my proud pre-  
tensions rise. The ban of poverty  
passed into the bliss "from  
such a stock one may expect  
to get a scion which will bring  
forth sweet well flavoured fruit  
nourishing & delectable to men and  
acceptable in the sight of the Lord  
of the whole earth. Stendino  
is one good true ingredient but  
many more good qualities are  
wanting to make a moral man  
not to say a Christian man.  
But I must know a little more  
even upon that point before  
I can give an answer to thy  
note -



Put it down best to me  
for me then I will  
not say more but must go  
home and get out this  
thing for me only saying that  
I say there is a letter in her  
hand of a mission



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 pieces at all; for all that has to say  
 in his favour is, that "he is thoroughly  
 steady and everything, I am sure, that  
 thou couldst wish." - But thou art  
 very much mistaken if thou thinkst  
 that steadiness is all that I require  
 in the man who asks the hand of  
 one of my daughters. - I expect him  
 to be a man of education, of good  
sound sense and true piety; that  
 he shall have come from a good  
stock, not so much in the world's  
 acceptance of the term, but in a  
 Friend's sense of the term; which is  
 that given by Cowper in his address  
 to his Mother upon receiving her pic-  
 -ture; where he says, My boast is not  
 that I deduce my birth from lains  
 enthroned, or rulers of the earth;